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| 09/781,922      | 02/05/2001  | Arthur Doskow        | 414.036CIP/09908722 | 4220             |

32127 7590 02/27/2006

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EXAMINER

PIZARRO, RICARDO M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2662

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/781,922

Applicant(s)

DOSKOW ET AL.

Examiner

Ricardo Pizarro

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 11-20, 22-27, 29-32 and 34-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11, 18, 20, 22-25, 37-42 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 47 and 52-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-17, 19, 26-27, 29-32, 34-36, 43-46, 48-51 and 58-76 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/9/06 has been entered.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 6,614,781 (Elliott).

Regarding claim 9, Elliott discloses a communication network, comprising: local communication links ( Local links between users 102, 120, 122 and 124 and facilities 126, 130, 128 and 132 in Fig. 1), a plurality of separately located central office switching systems ( Soft Switch 204 located within soft switch sites 104 col 24 line 34) interconnected via trunk circuits ( trunk circuits interconnecting switch sites 104 and

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104 and gateway sites 108 and 110 respectively) for selectively providing switched call connections between at least two of the local communication links( col 18 lines 34-36, col 19 lines 44-49) . A signaling communication system ( Signaling network 114 in Fig. 1) including at least one signaling network element ( Signaling Gateway located within switch site 5104 in Fig. 1 , col 24 lines 34-35) , the signaling communication system configured to provide two-way communications of control data messages between and among the central office switching systems and the signaling network element ( Signaling network 114 provides two way communication between central office i.e. switches 104 and 104 and Signaling gateway 208). The signaling communication system interconnecting the central office switching systems and said signaling network element ( Signaling network 114 in Fig. 1 interconnecting soft switch 204 and Signaling gateway 208 located within switch site 104-) ; a signaling gateway, separate from the central office switching systems, and connected to the signaling communications system ( Signaling gateway 208 separate from soft switch 204 - both located within site 104 - and separate from signaling network 114 in Fig. 1), the signaling gateway including an interface connected to a remote communications network ( telephone network including users 120 and 122 in Fig. 1) and configured to exchange control data messages ( col 16 lines 9-10) between the remote communication network ( telephone network formed by users 102, 120, 122 and 124 in Fig. 1) and the signaling communication system ( Signaling network 114 in Fig. 1) and exchanges control messages , and a signaling screening system , separate from the central office

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switching systems ( Signaling screening system , col 39 lines 14-17) , the signaling system configured to determine if control data messages are proper

( Gateway screening software feature located within STPs 250 and 250 within switch 104 in Fig. 1 .Screening can be performed on all in-bound messages from another network. Gateway screening can also be performed on all outgoing network management messages, col 39 lines 18-25).

Regarding claim 47, Elliott discloses a method of interfacing control links of respective communication networks, comprising the steps of: exchanging control data messages (i.e. control messages col 16 lines 9-10) between a remote communication network and a local signaling communication system ( telephone remote network formed by users 102, 120, 122 and 124 and signaling network 114 in Fig. 1); interpreting control data messages to determine whether it is appropriate with respect to a destination point code ( col 34 lines 42-45) of the control data message and, in response, determining if the control data messages are proper ( said interpreting and determination will be provided by the signaling screening system located within STP 250 within soft switch 104 in Fig. 1, col 39 lines 14-17 .Screening can be performed **on all in-bound messages** from another network. Gateway screening can also be performed on all outgoing network management messages, col 39 lines 18-25). and communicating control data messages between central office switching systems ( soft switches 204 and 204 - located within switch site 104 and 106 in Fig, 1-); and providing switched call connections between at least two of the local communication links in response to said control data messages (switched called connections to at least links to users 102 and 122 in fig. 1).

Elliott did not specifically disclose said signaling screening system being a signaling monitor system neither in the same embodiment disclosing a memory storing a state of the signaling communication system, as in claim 9 ; neither securely interfacing links in the network, as in claim 47.

However Elliott disclosed said system having a message screening software ( col 39 lines 14-17). and in a separate embodiment discloses a SCP 610 linked to the STP that is where the screening takes place. The SCP in this particular embodiment in Fig. 6 can provide database functions to provide signaling features of the SS7 signaling network including storing diverse information ( Col 84 lines 20-25)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the storage means of the embodiment disclosed in Fig. 6 could be provided to the first embodiment shown in Fig. 2A-1 and that the signaling screening system disclosed by Elliott could be modify in order to have the system screening messages for format and proper authorization [ contextually proper ] and the like, in order to have the system supporting user definitions of up to 64 screen sets , each screen set can accommodate condition statements or rules statements or rules with the gateway screening software, as in claim 9. In addition, it would have been obvious that said screening system would have provided a secure way to interface the links in the network. as in claim 47.

The motivation to do so is of obtaining a system for implementing packet switched communications for voice and data call that do no require special or dedicated access lines and still is capable of performing a secure way.

Regarding claim 52, Elliott discloses converting a protocol of the control messages between a protocol of said remote network and a protocol of the signaling network ( signaling gateway site 108 in Fig. 2A-2 includes trunking gateway TG 232 access gateway 238, NAS 228 does provide conversion for co-carrier and group D trunk, col 25 lines 15-18 and 30-35) .

Regarding claim 53, Elliott discloses one of the protocols is an SS7 compliant protocol ( i.e SS7 gateways in the network, col 33 line 15).

Regarding claim 54, Elliott discloses one of the protocol is in an IP format ( col 31 line 32).

Regarding claim 55, Elliott discloses the screening system is configured to monitor information contained in an MTP layer of said control messages ( col 33 lines 43-45).

Regarding claim 56, Elliot discloses the information message includes a destination point , an origination point ( message includes origination and destination points).

Regarding claim 57, the interpreting includes monitoring of an ISDN User part [ISUP] message ( col 33 line 53).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, filed on 2/9/06, with respect to claim 1 , 4 and 7 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

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Applicant's arguments with regard claims 9 and 47 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claim 9 Applicant argues that Elliot does not disclose a memory to store state of the signaling communication system,( Page 19 of the response Second Paragraph line 3). Examiner disagrees since Elliot discloses an SCPO that performs as a database in one of the embodiments and stores information about the signaling system. See Elliott Col 84 lines 20-25.

Regarding claim 47 applicant argue that Elliot does not describe determining appropriateness with respect to a "destination point code" of a message. Examiner disagrees since Elliot discloses the appropriateness of a message in respect to both the origination and destination point codes of a message with respect to both an origination and destination point code. See col 34 lines 42-45.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-7, 11, 18, 20, 22-25, 37-42 are allowed.

4. 11- 17, 19, 26-27, 29-32, 34-36, 43-46, 48-51 and 58-76 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.



***Conclusion***

**5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(571) 273-8300

(for formal communications intended for entry, for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 220 South 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, Va 22202 (Customer Window).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ricardo Pizarro** whose telephone number is (571) 272-3077. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Hassan Kizou** can be reached on (571) 272-3088

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

2/16/2006  
Ricardo Pizarro



HASSAN KIZOU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600